



Boston
Washington

ML Strategies, LLC

701 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC USA
202-296-3622
202-434-7400 fax
www.mlstrategies.com

October 30, 2014

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

- Re: Notice of Ex Parte** *In the matters of*
- *Technology Transitions, GN Docket No. 13-5*
 - *AT&T Petition to Launch a Proceeding Concerning the TDM-to-IP Transition, GN Docket No. 12-353*
 - *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet, GN Docket No. 14-28*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, October 28, 2014, Naren Gursahaney, CEO of ADT, David Bleisch, ADT Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Arthur Orduna, ADT Senior Vice President for Innovation, and Paul Plofchan, ADT Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs along with Alex Hecht and Rachel Sanford of ML Strategies, met with Daniel Alvarez with the Office of Chairman Wheeler, Matt DelNero, Daniel Kahn, Michelle Berlove, and Heather Hendrickson of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Commissioner O'Rielly and Legal Advisor Amy Bender, and Commissioner Pai and Legal Advisor Nick Degani.

Mr. Gursahaney and the ADT team spoke about the alarm industry embracing competition and innovating to meet consumer needs in the ever changing communications landscape. While ADT is the largest alarm and home monitoring service provider, the alarm industry consists of thousands of smaller companies that are also competing in this space. The above referenced proceedings have the potential to impact a variety of edge providers, including those who provide invaluable life safety connections to first responders.

It is a priority of the alarm industry to ensure that customers are able to connect to their current alarm and life safety services after the IP Transition is complete. The alarm industry asserts that communications services intended to replace POTS (plain old telephone service) must meet certain technical criteria, and testing of alarm functionality and line seizure by the service provider are necessary and critical life safety components of any new communications service installation. To that end, ADT advocates for data collection regarding post installation alarm functionality and testing as part of communications service updates to a protected premises.

ADT also believes consumers, especially members of vulnerable populations, are best served by communication efforts that provide effective notification of the impact the IP Transition may have on alarm services. These communication efforts should explain to the customer that the new POTS replacement services installation technician has the responsibility of ensuring the customer's existing premise based alarm and alert systems function properly. In other words, the IP Transition should not be used as a forcing function to cause consumers to unnecessarily upgrade functional systems that are technically compatible with broadband.

Towards these goals, ADT is working with relevant stakeholders, including broadband network providers, to ensure Managed Facilities-Based Voice Network (MFVN) standards are met. This effort will help ensure alarm monitoring systems already in place to protect consumers' homes and businesses have the necessary system functionality in the broadband environment to transmit alarm signals from the protected location to the monitoring center during emergency situations, including line seizure capabilities allowing signal transmission when the location phone is either busy or off the hook.

Regarding the Open Internet, ADT supports transparency principles consistent with the Commission's 2010 Open Internet Rules. Regardless of the technology and enforcement mechanism, consumers expect services – especially public safety and lifesaving signals – that rely on broadband infrastructure to work, allowing first responders and other associated agencies and stakeholders to deliver emergency services as quickly and as effectively as possible. Broadband policy must continue to deliver on this fundamental consumer expectation and public safety requirement and support the technical innovation necessary to make it a reality. Alarm and other life safety home automation signaling consist of small, discrete packet types that are transmitted upstream from the customer's alarm location, across the network(s), to the monitoring center in a matter of seconds. These signals are tied to specific, episodic life critical events, which differentiates them from other edge provider services that consist of large downstream packets. The amount of broadband use (size of packet) and the associated carrying costs for alarm signals are de minimis so there should not be an incentive to de-prioritize this traffic.

In addition, to further meet consumer expectation and protect public safety, ADT advocates for the same broadband Quality of Service (QoS) level for 911 and life safety alarm signals that have been historically afforded 911 signals over telephony. ADT strongly supports nondiscrimination requirements both across the network and with respect to on-boarding and provisioning treatment of devices used to deliver life safety services to the protected premises. ADT encourages the Commission to review current statutory and regulatory orders related to the treatment of 911 signals and to extend them to the broadband network and device environment where appropriate.

Finally, as many broadband network providers are now active participants in the alarm industry, and in support of the promise of providing the highest quality of service prioritization on all transmission networks at all times, ADT believes life safety signal QoS, anti-discrimination, and device provisioning expectations can be achieved by broadband provider assurances to provide

QoS and device provisioning which is at least equivalent to that which the broadband ISP provides to its own competitive alarm and life safety services or those of an affiliate. Comparative data collection and reporting should be evaluated as a mechanism for achieving compliance with these assurances.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed via ECFS, and a copy will be provided via email to the attendees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Sanford", written over the printed name.

Cc: Daniel Alvarez, Matt DelNero, Daniel Kahn, Michelle Berlove, Heather Hendrickson, Commissioner O'Rielly, Amy Bender, Commissioner Pai, Nick Degani.